

Elizabeth Polnau
by Granddaughter
Christine Hennes
Polish Immigrant
Metagama
April 14, 1927



My grandmother, Elizabeth Polnau, was born on October 23, 1903 in Kapa Wolkowa, Poland. She was the 7th child of 12, born to Gottlieb & Auguste (Wolfe) Polnau.

On March 9, 1927, at the age of 23, Elizabeth got her passport in Gostynin, Poland and prepared to emigrate to Canada. She had been in contact with the German Missionary Society of the German Baptist Church of North America. Their headquarters were in Winnipeg, MB. This society paid Grandma's passage to Canada and promised to find her employment. With all the arrangements made she prepared to leave Poland. Her trunk packed and \$4 in her purse, Elizabeth boarded the ship on March 22, 1927 in Danzig, Poland en route to Southampton. On March 30th she boarded the Steam Ship Metagama, which was of the Canadian Pacific Line, and was headed to Saint John, New Brunswick. She landed there on April 8, 1927.

I am sure she had mixed feelings as she prepared for this life-changing event. When she left, she said her last good-bye to her parents and siblings. Many years later, she became reacquainted with 2 of her sisters and a brother. Saying her good-byes to family, friends and the only life she had known would have been very difficult. There would also have been some excitement about the voyage and her new life in Canada.

Once she was processed and granted her Landed Immigrant status, Elizabeth boarded the train. Following her arrival in the Leduc, AB area, she was employed as a domestic and seamstress for a Baptist family. Through the family's involvement with the First Baptist Church, Elizabeth came to know Albert Price. He himself had been an immigrant from Russia in 1906. They married on Jan. 27, 1928. Elizabeth sewed her wedding gown and even carried live flowers. Albert's brother, Emil, rode horseback into the town of Millet, which was 16 miles round trip, his jacket providing protection for her wedding bouquet.

Married life began with a move to Albert's farm in the Millet area where they pioneered together. Albert showed his appreciation to the mission society by reimbursing them for Elizabeth's fare. Over the years their family increased with the births of 2 sons, Kenneth & Leslie, and 2

daughters, Deloris & Phyllis (my Mom). In 1948 two of Elizabeth's nieces, Gertrude and Fried Schulz, joined the family. Albert and Elizabeth sponsored their emigration from Germany, following their parent's death.

Albert and Elizabeth worked hard on their mixed farm and appreciated the life they had in Canada. Grandma never really would talk about family and her life in Poland or the trip to Canada. When her children questioned her about these things, a wistful and sad look came over her and she became very quiet. It was obvious that Elizabeth had not foreseen what her decision made at the age of 23 really meant.

Albert passed away on Oct. 14, 1973 and Elizabeth on June 6, 1989.